

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 remain present in this application.

The specification has been amended. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Attached herewith is a new Fig. 4. This Fig. 4 simply corrects an informality by removing a short horizontal line between roller 20 and grooves 12. This showing of Fig. 4 simply correctly indicates the cutaway portion of the fusion roller 10 through which the paper-separating ring 20 extends. Approval of this corrected Fig. 4 is requested.

Fig. 4 is objected to because of the cross-hatching used for the fusing roller and following roller. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that this cross-hatching is correct. The fusing roller 10 is a metal hollow cylinder that is coated with a Teflon® layer. The following roller 30 is composed of a metal (solid) cylinder and a heat-proof plastic layer covered around the metal cylinder. The coating layers are simply not shown, but the fusing and following rollers being made of metal are properly shown in the drawings. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the requirements of MPEP § 608.02 with regard to cross-hatching have been satisfied. Withdrawal of this drawings objection is respectfully requested.

The drawings also stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The Examiner alleges that the fusing roller of claim 11 must be shown. Accordingly, a new Fig. 4A has been presented, wherein the following roller is assembled above the fusing roller. This is the arrangement supported by the originally presented claim 11. This subject matter is basically Fig. 4 inverted. As such, the subject matter of claim 11 should now be shown. Approval of the attached Fig. 4A and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings are respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner considers claims 1-11 to contain allowable subject matter. These claims should continue to be in condition for allowance. Because all objections should now be overcome, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application should now be allowed. Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

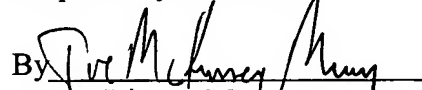
In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant respectfully petitions for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application. The required fee of \$120.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: JAN. 24, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Joe McKinney Muncy

Registration No.: 32,334

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road, Suite 100 East

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant

KM/asc/cm

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto are two (2) sheets of corrected drawings that comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. The corrected drawings incorporate the following drawing changes:

In Fig. 4, a short horizontal line between roller 20 and grooves 12 has been removed; and
Fig. 4A has been presented to show the following roller being assembled above the fusing roller.

It is respectfully requested that the corrected drawings be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.